

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 21381 221152Z

11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /114 W

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P R 221030Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0255

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

US MISSION USUN 0586

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 21381

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: VARIOUS RECENT "THIRD FORCE" APPEALS

REF:

(A) FBIS S210235 DEC (B) FBIS 210616 DEC

(C) SAIGON 20864, (D) SAIGON 21229

1. ON THE EVE OF THE DEC 20 KISSINGER THO MEETING A GROUP OF SVN LEFTIST DISSIDENTS LED BY SENATOR VU VAN MAU AND MRS NGO BA THANH HAVE ISSUED AN APPEAL TO "BOTH SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES" FOR AN "EFFECTIVE" CEASE-FIRE; THE IMPLEMENTATION OF "DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES" IN SVN, THE FREEING AT "PLACES OF THEIR OWN CHOICE THE CIVILIAN PERSONNEL BELONGING TO THE THIRD POLITICAL ELEMENT STILL DETAINED ILLEGALLY"; AND THE "IMMEDIATE" FORMATION OF THE

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD(NCNR).

2. ONE APPEAL IS IN THE FORM OF A TELEGRAM ADDRESSED TO THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 21381 221152Z

UN SECRETARY GENERAL AND TO THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH PARTICIPATED

IN THE PARIS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VN. THE TELEGRAM (WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY) IS DATED DEC 19 AND IS SIGNED BY A GROUP OF ABOUT 70 PERSONS INCLUDING MANY OF THE LEFTIST DISSIDENTS ACTIVE IN VARIOUS PEACE MOVEMENTS IN SAIGON OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS. INCLUDED ARE TWO SENATORS. VU VAN MAU AND TONG A LIENG; TWELVE DEPUTIES, INCLUDING TRAN VAN TUYEN, HO NGOC NHUAN, HO VAN MINH, NGUYEN HUU CHUNG, AND PHAN XUAN HUY; MRS NGO BAN THANH; BUDDHIST LAY LEADER TRAN NGOC LIENG; MRS NGUYEN LONG; FATHER CHAN TIN; AN QUANG RADICAL BONZE THICH PHAP LAN; AND OTHERS. WE SUSPECT MRS THANH, SENATOR MAU, AND LAWYER LIENG WERE PROBABLY THE PRINCIPAL INSTIGATORS. SIGNIFICANTLY, GENERAL DUONG VAN (BIG) MINH DID NOT SIGN, ALTHOUGHT A NUMBER OF HIS POLITICAL ASSOCIATES DID SO (SEE PARA 5 BELOW).

3. THE SAME GROUPS HAS ALSO ISSUED A "DECLARATION" DATED DEC 18 IN SAIGON. THE DECLARATION IS MORE DISCURSIVE AND ALTHOUGH ALSO ADDRESSED TO "BOTH SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES" IS POLEMICALLY ANTI-GVN. ITS MESSAGE: THE PARIS AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED, A REKINDLING OF THE CONFLICT IS IMMINENT, AND IT IS THE RVN (AND BY IMPLICATION OF COURSE THE US) WHICH BEARS MOST OF THE BLAME FOR THIS BECAUSE IT HAS NOT ACCORDED THE "THIRD FORCE" THE ROLE WHICH IT ALONE CAN PLAY IN BRINGING PEACE AND RECONCILIATION.

4. THE SAIGON PRESS (OPPOSITION DIEN TIN) HAS NOTED THE EXISTENCE OF THE "THIRD FORCE" APPEALS BUT HAS NOT CARRIED THE TEXTS, WHICH HAVE BEEN MIMEOGRAPHED AND ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED BY HAND IN SAIGON. TEXTS OF THE TELEGRAM AND DECLARATION FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.

5. THE SAIGON PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED THAT IN PARIS DEC 19 EXPATRIATE POLITICAL FIGURE NGUYEN HUU CHAU HAS DISTRIBUTED AN APPEAL OVER GEN. DUONG VAN (BIG) MINH'S NAME ADDRESSED TO THE SIGNATORIES OF THE JAN 27 PARIS AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO BRIEF PRESS REPORTS HERE, MINH'S DOCUMENT HOLDS THE US LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE "THIRD FORCE", AND FOR ITS PROPER PARTICIPATION IN THE NCNRC. (ON SEEKING TO OBTAIN A COPY DEC 22, WE WERE TOLD BY ONE OF MINH'S "PRESS OFFICERS" THAT NO SUCH STATE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 21381 221152Z

MENT EXISTS. WE CANNOT EXPLAIN THIS CONFUSION OVER THE PURPORTED MINH STATEMENT; PERHAPS CHAU ACTED ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE.)

6. FBIS SZ10235 DEC 1973 TRANSMITS THE TEXT OF A RADIO HANOI BROADCAST WELCOMING THE ALLEGED "BIG MINH STATEMENT, TAKING PARTICULAR NOTE OF THOSE ADMONITORY PORTIONS ADDRESSED TO THE US. THE SAME TEXT HAS BEEN CARRIED OVER THE CLANDESTINE "PRG RADIO LIBERATION.

7. SAIGON RADIO HAS REACTED QUICKLY TO THE "THIRD FORCE" INITIATIVES. FBIS S210616 REPORTS A DEC 20 SAIGON RADIO BROADCAST WHICH SCORES THE "THRID FORCE" POLITICANS AS "COUNTRY SELLERS." ACCORDING TO THE COMMENTATOR, "ON LEARNING ABOUT THE MEETING BETWEEN THE US AND NVN IN PARIS, THESE CROOKED POLITICIANS THOUGHT THEIR OPPORTUNITY HAD COME." THE "THIRD FORCE" POLITICIANS ARE TDHMED PARASITES AND COWARDS WHO "HAVE NO REAL STRENGTH."

COMMENT:

8. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF THE MORE RADICAL DISSIDENTS IN THE AN QUANG BUDDHIST CAMP LIKE SENATOR MAU AND VENERABLE PHAP LAN, HAD HOPED TO STEER A SIMILAR LEFTIST STATEMENT ON THE PEACE ISSUE THROUGH THE FIFTH BI-ANNUAL CONGRESS ON THE AN QUANG UNIFIED BUDDHIST CHURCH WHICH CONCLUDED DEC 12. AS REPORTED SAIGON 20864 AND SAIGON 21229, THE CONGRESS ENDED IN DISCORD WITHOUT A CLEAR CUT VICTORY FOR ANY OF THE CONTENDING FACTIONS, AND NO FINAL COMMUNIQUE EMUPGED. THIS WAS NO DOUBTA DISAPPOINTMENT FOR THE RADICALS.

9. WE DO NOT EXPECT THIS PREDICTABLE ATTEMPT BY THE DISSIDENTS TO CLAIM THE LIMELIGHT ON THE EVE OF THE KISSINGER THO MEETING TO HAVE MUCH (FI ANY) IMPACT IN SAIGON, THE FACT THAT "BIG" MINH DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE VU VAN MAU NGO BA THANH INITIATIVES UNDERSCORES THE CONTINUING DIVISIONS WITHIN "THIRD FORCE" RANKS.
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